



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office**

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/045,041	03/20/98	FUJISAWA	122.1329

STAAS AND HALSEY
700 ELEVENTH STREET NW
SUITE 500
WASHINGTON DC 20001

LM02/1203

EXAMINER

JONES, H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2763

DATE MAILED: 12/03/99

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/045,041

Applicant(s)

Fujisawa

Examiner

Hugh Jones

Group Art Unit

2763



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Mar 20, 1998

☐ This action is FINAL.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☒ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☒ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s) _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

Art Unit: 2763

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

2. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Linke et al. or Matsunaga.

3. Linke et al. disclose (col. 3, lines 9-16): "*In general, it is known that simulation speed can be increased by grouping a set of elements together and modeling the aggregate behavior of the elements. Then the behavior is simulated as a single object. Such groupings may include only two elements of elements. Once a grouping is made, the individual behavior of each element is subsumed into the overall behavior of the group. ...*" See also: abstract;

4. Matsunaga teaches checking for equivalence followed by a merging operation. Especially see fig. 3-4 and col. 6, line 64 to col. 7, line 59. Also see: abstract; col. 1-4.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Art Unit: 2763

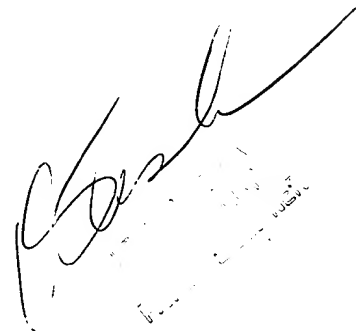
- Skruhak et al. teaches a merging operation. See: col. 4;

- Bailey teaches composite circuits. See: fig. 3a and corresponding text.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Hugh Jones whose telephone number is (703) 305-0023.

Dr. Hugh Jones

November 27, 1999

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hugh Jones", is written over a faint rectangular stamp. The signature is slanted upwards to the right.